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IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:	Cittadini, Paolo et al	)	
		)	Examiner:
CASE:	6502-1515	)	
		)	Art Unit:
SERIAL NO.:		)	
		)	
FILED ON:	Herewith	)	
		)	
FOR:	Moulding Element for Motor Vehicle Bodies and Method for Realisation Thereof	)	

BOX PCT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

[x] AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES. If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the following Communication (including but not limited to the payment of Issue Fees), they may be paid out of our deposit account 12-0913. If this payment also requires a Petition, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary Petition which is required to accompany this payment.

[] Applicant hereby petitions for a ***one-month extension*** and entry of this Amendment which is sent within the _____ month after the due date of _____. The payment of $_____ to cover the _____ month extension is enclosed herewith.

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Asst. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington D.C. 20231 on:

Date: June 19, 2001

By: _____
Donna B. Vandenberg

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FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

To place claims 1-16 in proper U.S. form, substitute attached pages 17-19 for amended pages 17-19 prior to calculating the fees. The attached pages 17-19 amend claims 10, 13, and 15 to eliminate the multiple dependency.

No new matter has been entered.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 19, 2001

By: _____

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moulding.

7. Moulding element according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a flexible seal lip (4) extending longitudinally along substantially the entire development of the moulding element itself and presenting a base portion (4a) engaged on the main section bar.

8. Moulding element according to claim 1, characterized in that said main section bar comprises a stiffening metal core.

9. Moulding element according to claim 4, characterized in that the main section bar (2) presents a substantially "C" shaped cross section defining within its own interior the longitudinal seat (8), said seat comprising two undercuts (12), set to act in opposition on corresponding bearing portions (13) of the continuous support element (7) to prevent the extraction of the attachment means (6) through the longitudinal opening.

10. Moulding element according to anyone of the previous claims, characterized in that the continuous support element (7) presents a pre-set number of attachment seats (11) delimited at least in one side of the continuous element (7) destined to face the body, by a peripheral lip defining a closed line.

11. Moulding element according to claim 10, characterized in that the peripheral lip delimiting the attachment seat (11) defines at least an area (11a) for the insertion of fastening projections (9) and at least an area (11 b) for blocking the fastening projections (9) in an axial direction of motion of the moulding element away from the

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body, the fastening projections (9) of the body comprising a head and a connecting stem between the head and the body, said head presenting a radial dimension greater than the radial dimension of the stem.

12. Moulding element according to claim 11, characterized in that in correspondence with the blocking area (11b), the peripheral lip presents a projecting portion (15) defining at least an undercut (16) set to act in opposition on a corresponding arrest portion of the head of the projection (9) to prevent separating motions between the moulding element (1) and the body (5) of the vehicle.

13. Moulding element according to anyone of the claims from 1 to 12, characterized in that the continuous support element (7) presents a pre-set number of attachment seats (11) each delimited at least in one side of the continuous element (7) destined to face the body, by a peripheral lip defining an open line connected to the subsequent and to the preceding seat.

14. Moulding element according to claim 13, characterized in that the peripheral lip, delimiting the attachment seat (11) defines at least an area (11a) for the insertion of the fastening projections (9) and at least an area (11b) for blocking the fastening projections (9) in an axial direction of motion of the moulding element away from the body, the fastening projections (9) of the body comprising a head and a stem connecting the head and the body, said head presenting a radial dimension greater than the radial dimension of the stem.

15. Moulding element according to claims 13 and 14, characterized in that, in correspondence with the blocking area (11b), the peripheral lip presents a projecting

portion (15) defining at least an undercut (16) set to act in opposition on a corresponding arresting portion of the head of the projection (9) to prevent separating motions between the moulding element (1) and the body (5) of the vehicle.

16. Method for the manufacturing of a moulding element and for assembling the same to a motor vehicle body, said moulding element being preferably of the type disclosed in anyone of the preceding claims, the method comprising the following phases:

- realizing the main section bar (2) of elongated conformation. and provided with the longitudinal seat (8);
- realizing the continuous support element (7) presenting a pre-set number of attachment seats (11) positioned at a pre-set mutual distance;
- engaging the continuous support element (7) to the main section bar (2) prior to associating the moulding element (1) to the body (5) of a motor vehicle; and
- axially fastening the main section bar (2) and the support element (7) prior to associating the moulding element (1) to the body (5) of a motor vehicle,

said engaging phase of the continuous support element (7) to the main section bar (2) being realized by sliding the continuous support element (7) through the longitudinal seat (8).